OUTREACH programme of NIOH

842. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NIOH, Kolkata has been extending help to handicapped people all over the country in the last three years;

(b) if so, to what extent Government have extended the example of OUTREACH programmes to other institutes in the country;

(c) what steps Government are taking to ensure that the OUTREACH programme of NIOH, Kolkata is accepted in principle as a means of reaching poor and needy people; and

(d) the steps proposed by Government to have similar programmes all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) National Institutes including National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped are extending outreach services to poor and needy persons with disabilities through their regional centres and composite rehabilitation camps to provide various clinical therapeutic services, aids and appliances as well as for awareness generation on prevention, identification of disabilities etc.

Deemed University status for NIOH

843. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the NIOH, Kolkata into a Deemed University;

(b) the powers being given to the NIOH to start functioning autonomously and independently to improve standards;

(c) whether Government are also encouraging the need to create a good and productive atmosphere at NIOH;

(d) the steps proposed to ensure that discipline is maintained and patients are not harassed by employees; and